

MEETING MINUTES

March 20, 2019

Members Present: Cynthia DeAngelis, Darcy Devney, Kerrie Fallon,
Karen Mathiasen, Michael Rademacher, Paul Raia

Members Absent: Liza Molina, Paul Czech, Maureen St. Hilaire

Others Present: Adam Chapdelaine, Town Manager
Christine Borgiorno, Director of Health and
Human Services
Jack Jones, Director of Housing & Disability
Programs
Two members of the Arlington High School
Building Committee
Two members of the Architectural Design Firm
HMFH
Ellen Leigh, Disability Advocate
Grace Carpenter, Disability Advocate

Meeting Minutes of December 19, 2018:

Darcy corrected the spelling of the word misinformation. With this correction Darcy made a motion to accept the minutes seconded by Karen Mathiasen.

Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2019:

Paul Raia made a motion to approve the minutes seconded by Kerrie Fallon.

Meeting Minutes of February 20, 2019:

The meeting minutes were approved after correcting the spelling of Paul Raia's name and correcting the full name of the firm conducting the Town's Self Evaluation which is Institute for Human Centered Design. With the appropriate changes Paul Raia moved to accept the minutes seconded by Darcy Devney.

Act Relative to the Architectural Access Board:

Darcy requested that the Commission support this Act number 2021/SED.814. Darcy said that in past years the legislature has not voted favorably on this Act. Darcy made a motion to support this Act seconded by Paul Raia. SO VOTED

Town Meeting Warrant Article 79:

Warrant Article #79 is for a Resolution/Overnight Parking Exemption Program for Medical and Financial Hardships. This favorable vote would provide a non-binding resolution to support an overnight parking program that provides exemptions for persons with medical and/or financial hardships. Darcy recommended that the Commission vote no on this Warrant Article. The reason for Darcy's recommended no vote was that a person with a disability can always request a reasonable accommodation. If this article were to pass a disabled person or a person with a financial hardship would be able to park in an H/P space overnight and would not be required to move their car the following day possibly reducing the number of H/P spaces available in the Town. Paul Raia said that he would like to see the Commission train the Select Board on how to evaluate applicants for H/P spaces. Ellen Leigh said that requesting an H/P space should be a more private process and not televised at the Select Board's televised meeting. A motion was made not to support this Warrant Article. Michael Rademacher abstains from the vote with all other present members voting no on this article. SO VOTED

Discussion on Warrant Article 46 which if approved would provide Acceptance of Legislation/Establishment of a Commission on Disabilities Fund:

Jack said that the Select Board would like a list of how these funds would be expended if the Article were approved. Cynthia said that after the completion of the self-evaluation the Commission would have a better idea of how to most appropriately allocate these funds. Cynthia

said that the Commission is not prepared at this time to provide a list to the Select Board.

Commission Retreat:

Kerrie requested Commission Members to prepare a list of training ideas for the retreat. Kerrie said that the True Story Theatre would be involved again this year with the retreat. Cynthia asked Karen and Kerrie if they would prepare a questionnaire pertaining to the retreat for Commission Members to fill out what their interests are for the retreat.

Arlington High School Building Committee:

Adam Chadelaine, Town Manager and Vice Chair of the High School Building Committee, said that the reason a new High School is needed is that many of the existing building components are at or beyond their expected service life. Adam also said that in 2013 the New England Association of School and Colleges placed Arlington High School on Warning status for school accreditation citing the infrastructure of the existing High School. Adam said that the planned High School will consist of four wings connected to a central spine. The wings will consist of a four-story STEAM (science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math) wing, a five story Humanities wing, a two story Performing Arts wing, and a two-story Athletic Wing. Adam said that about 2/3 of the front lawn will remain. The new High School if approved by voters and Town Meeting will cost approximately 291 million dollars of which the State will hopefully contribute approximately 35 to 40 percent. Adam said that the most effective building option was for Arlington High School was for a completely new building. The High School would be built in phases with the first phase completed in 2022 with a final completion date of 2024. When the Commission asked about access to floors above the ground floor Adam said that the building design calls for three elevators currently there is only one undersize elevator. The auditorium will have ADA compliant aisles and accessible seating. Wherever there is parking H/P spaces will be provided. Adam said that geothermal wells would be installed with solar panels on the roof.

Access to the High School will also be provided with a ramp from Summer Street to prevent students in that area from having to walk around a long block to obtain entrance to the building. Currently there is 9,000 sq. ft. of sidewalk the new High School will have 31,000 sq. ft. Paul Raia voiced concern about the design of the cafeteria where banked areas are for students to sit above the main cafeteria floor. Since no ramp is currently included to give wheelchair access to this area this design may prove to be discriminatory as it creates a situation where disabled students will be prohibited from entering an area that only able-bodied students can access. The Commission recommended that all bathrooms be equipped with automatic door openers.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 P.M.